

THULE TIMES

UCI EDITION

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

www.thule.af.mil

September 11, 2003

UCI kicks off today—"Let's Shine!"

By Col. Thomas Walker

821st Air Base Group commander

Today we kicked off the Unit Compliance Inspection—what you've been superbly preparing for over the last few months. The road to get here has been challenging and long, but we've all sharpened the sword through the process. Without a doubt, Team Thule is the best team in the world, and now it's time to show that to the inspectors.

Every one of you has a critical role to play—each and every person is key to our success. Our UCI report card is written based on this one-week encounter with the Air Force Space Command Inspector General team—now is the time to show them that we truly are OUTSTANDING! This is our time to shine—let's welcome the IG with open arms.

As I mentioned during commander's call, there are 12 rules of engagement that you should all take to heart. Take the time to review these throughout this inspection.

UCI Rules of Engagement:

Safety First: In our zeal to "wow" the inspectors, first and foremost we should never lose sight of safety considerations. Safety First is even more important given the onset of storm season, Sept. 15. Remember—safety is a state of mind. Write and talk about it every opportunity you have.

Be Positive: You must appreciate the significance of this inspection. The ability to convey a confident, positive attitude becomes a direct reflection of individual professionalism. Inspectors perceive commitment to mission when observing individuals in your group and they draw obvious conclusions when they see a negative mentality.

Hustle: If the situation demands a display of urgency, convey that urgency to the inspector. It's a direct reflection of how we locally train and evaluate. Lack of hustle conveys lack of intensity and damages the portrait of readiness we want to paint for the IG.

Be Prepared: Continue to work your weak areas hardest. Take advantage of



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Col. Bradford Ward, Air Force Space Command inspector general, shakes hands with Chaplain Jim Parrish upon arriving at Thule today. Thule's compliance inspection began today and continues until September 19.

crossfeed findings and recommendations. Document problems you may have, develop corrective actions, and establish get well dates.

No Repeat Discrepancies: Enough said.

Fix it NOW: If the IG identifies a small problem, fix it on the spot if you can. Show the inspector that you are both receptive and responsive, and as a result, these smaller problems may be dismissed.

Use The Checklists: If you've got them, use them. Lack of knowledge is understandable. Lack of discipline, like failure to use required checklists, is unforgivable. Discipline problems are killers any time, and the IG punishes them accordingly.

Ask Questions: Throughout the inspection you may be asked by the IG to demonstrate your proficiency or knowledge. If you are unclear about the inspector's objective, ask questions up front, before you do the task or answer the inspector's question.

Maximum Demonstration: Avoid simulation unless told to do so by the inspector. Demonstrate tasks during the UCI just as you would do them every day. We want our inspection performance to mirror our day-to-day operations as closely as possible.

Every Day is Day One: A one-week UCI is an exhausting event. Keep your team fired up! Approach every day, first to last, as if it were the first day of the inspection.

Don't Argue: Arguing is a big "no-no" during an IG inspection. Elevate concerns, but never argumentatively confront an inspector.

Personal Appearance, Customs And Courtesies Make A Difference: The IG looks at how we present ourselves in these areas. Presentation is a direct reflection of professionalism and commitment to excellence. A good haircut, sharp uniform, and a crisp salute say a great deal to an inspector.

“Team Thule” remembers 9/11

Photos by 1st Lt. Jeremy Eggers

Team Thule came out in force today for a Patriot Day commemoration ceremony at the base flagpole. “Patriot Day reaffirms the airman’s obligation to fight for what’s right—obliterating terrorism on every front to ensure a safe tomorrow for future generations of Americans and freedom-loving people around the world,” said Air Force Secretary James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff John Jumper in a joint statement. Clockwise from right: Maj. Neil Wentz, 821st Support Squadron commander, plays Taps during the ceremony. Danish Chief Petty Officer C.V. Andersen prepares to raise the Danish flag. Senior Airman Mikey Whisnant, Tech. Sgt. Chris Ramos, and Staff Sgt. Courtney Gibson prepare to raise the U.S. flag during the reveille ceremony.



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Add your name here as a staff writer!—call PA at 5678

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The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs office of the 821st Air Base Group, 21st Space Wing, Air Force Space Command, Thule Air Base, Greenland, APO AE 09704. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. Articles can be sent to: thuletimes@thule.af.mil.